तथापि इसमें से कुछ हथकरघा अभिकरणों के माध्यम से रोजगार भी ले रहे हैं।

Conference of Handloom Weavers

487. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the massive conference of handloom weavers organised in Madras in May, 1992;

(b) if so, whether some measures have been suggested at the above conference for modernisation of handlooms and the rehabilitation of weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It was recommended, *inter-alia*, to enhance the quantum of assistance under modernisation of looms upto Rs. 10,000/-. Government has revised assistance available under the modernisation of looms scheme upwards. Assistance is available upto Rs. 8000/- for Jacquard/Pedal looms.

Government is in agreement with the general recommendation for extensive efforts of rehabilitation of the weavers and has provided adequate outlays for welfare and developmental schemes aimed at providing sustained and regular employment to the handloom weavers.

Group insurance scheme for powerloom, handloom, etc.

488. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom, handloom and similar other works in collaboration with the L.I.C. of India during 1992-93;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and which Authority would administer the above schemes; and

(c) What is the expenditure likely to be earmarked for this purpose during 1992-93 indicating separately the shares of State Governments and Central assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the scheme approved by the Government of India, handloom and powerloom workers are eligible to get an insurance cover for Rs. 10,000 on an annual premium of Rs. 120 to be shared equally between the worker, the Central Government and the State Government. The Scheme would be administered by the State Government.

(c) There is a budget provision of Rs. 600 lakhs for the Handlooms and Rs. 75 lakhs for Powerlooms in the Government of India budget, Share of State Government will be as per number of workers covered.

Closure of sick textiles mills

489. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a plan to close down some of the sick textile mills in the country;

(b) if so, the number of sick textile mills which are proposed to be closed in different States, state-wise.

(c) the number of workers who are likely to be retrenched as a result thereof, State-wise.

(d) the compensation proposed to be given to the workers of the above sick textile mills.

(e) whether it is also a fact that maximum number of textile mills are proposed to the closed down in Gujarat and, as a result thereof maximum number of workers are likely to be retrenched in the state;

(f) if so, what are the reasons for closing of maximum number of textile mills in Gujarat and the resultant retrenchment of workers; and

(g) what amount has been sanctioned for modernisation of sick textile mills in different State, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (g) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills. The Key elements of this strategy would be selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Voluntary Retirement Scheme will also be offered to the officers, staff and workers of such chronically sick mills, which have no possibility of viability and which may have to be closed down or merged with adjacent units to ensure viability. The viability of these mills will be determined on the basis of financial performance, productivity, man-machine ratio, wage cost etc. It is expected that about 80,000 officers, staff and workers of NTC would avail of Voluntary Retirement Scheme, under which they would be provided *ex-gratia* payment equivalent to 1½ months emoluments for each completed year of service, in addition to normal terminal benefits. An outlay of Rs. 532.78 crore has been envisaged for strengthening/ modernisation the viable mills of NTC in the Turn Around Strategy. This would include budgetary support as well as funds from financial institutions.

Purchase of jute from village market by J.C.I.

490. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment are aware that the jute growers of North Bengal are facing hardships due to the JCI's decision not to purchase jute from the village market (HAT);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision of jute Corporation of India not to purchase the raw jute from the village market has helped the big farmers and middleman;

(c) if so, what is Govenment's reaction thereto; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the J.C.I. purchases jute from the growers directly in order to protect the interest of small jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) J.C.I. is required to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute that is offered for sale at minimum support prices. The Departmental purchase Centres, Sub Centres and agents of J.C.I. in North Bengal have, accordingly, purchased 1,90,833 bales of raw jute up to 12.11.92 during the 1992-93 jute season to protect the interests of the jute growing farmers. This jute has been purchased directly from the farmers on the basis of jute cards issued by the State Government.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Sixty-fourth Session

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and